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THE PROGRESS OF SCIENCE

ANDREW DIXON WHITE

THE death of Andrew Dixon White at the close of his eighty-sixth year completes a life of fine performance. Three great university presidents, White at Cornell, Angell at Michigan and Eliot at Harvard, were the leaders in the development of our system of higher education. Theirs is not the blame if the office has been magnified by their qualities so as to become dangerous in the hands of lesser men.

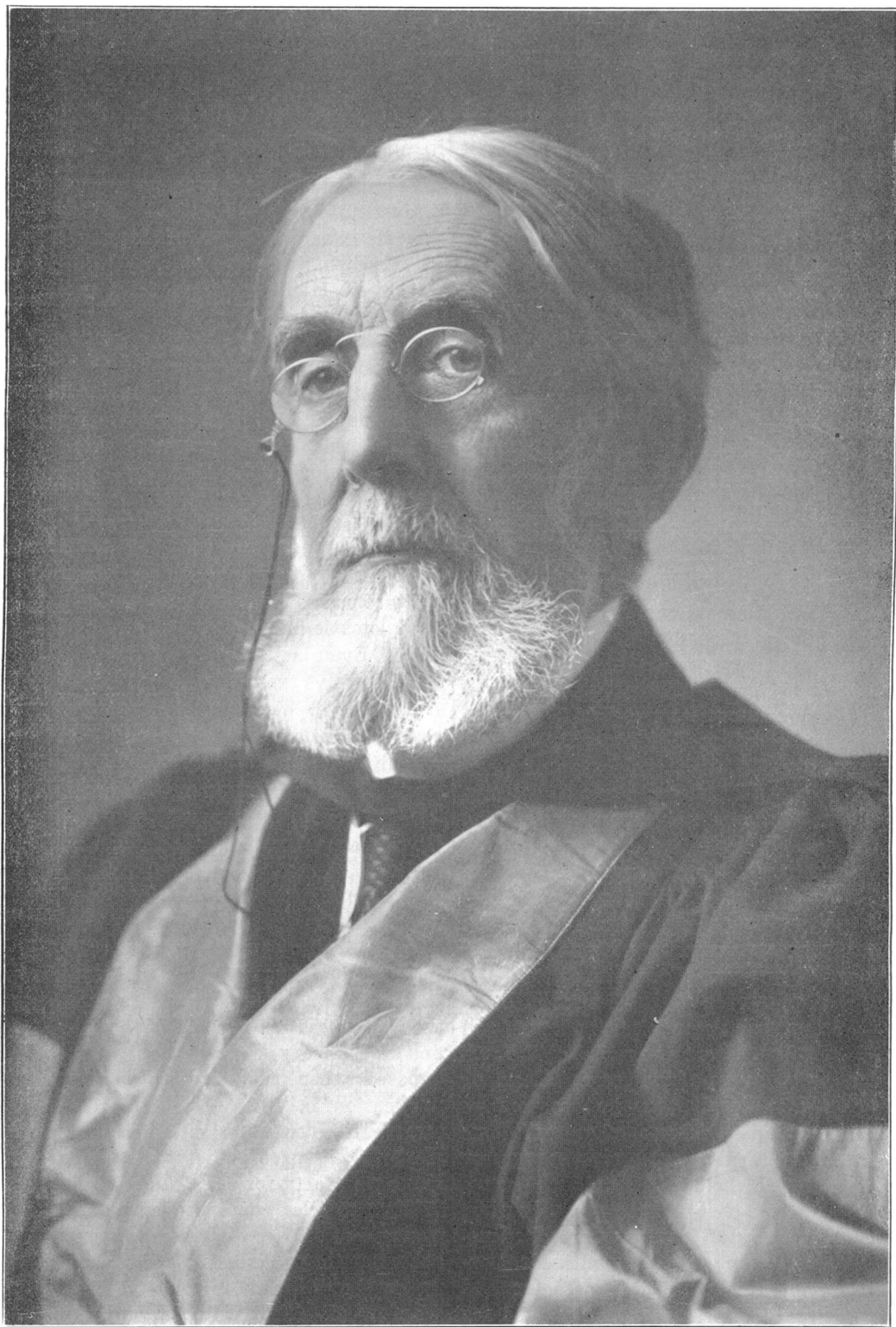
White and Ezra Cornell were members of the New York State Senate in 1863, when the question of the disposal of the land grant for colleges of agriculture and the mechanic arts was under discussion. As the result of conferences between them, Cornell gave \$500,000 to establish Cornell University in co-operation with the land-grant college. White was elected president of the new university, and served in that office for twenty years. Through his influence there was established an institution for advanced instruction and research in which science, pure and applied, had an equal place with letters, and in which the students were in large measure released from pedantry and routine. It was provided at the outset that "no professor, officer, or student shall ever be accepted or rejected on account of any religious or political views which he may or may not hold."

White once told the present writer the story of how nearly he had repeated the experience with Mr. Cornell. A prominent benefactor had provisionally accepted his plans for a national university at Washington with an endowment of forty million dollars, but was finally dissuaded by

those who looked askance on such an institution.

White was professor of history and English literature at the University of Michigan from 1857 to 1863, having been appointed to his chair at the age of twenty-five years, after his return from three years' study in Europe. During that time he had been an attaché of the American legation at St. Petersburg and at Moscow. In 1867 he was made minister to Germany, which post he occupied as ambassador from 1897 to 1902, having from 1897 to 1914 served as minister to Russia. He was also active in diplomatic and political affairs at home. Even last summer at the age of eighty-five years he spent several weeks in Washington as an adviser of President Wilson.

White was also an author of distinction. In this place it is becoming to state that he was one of three men whose contributions did the most to make *The Popular Science Monthly*, on the editorial lines of which this journal is conducted, a leader in the emancipation of science and of thought in this country. It is difficult for us to understand the bitterness with which Darwin and the theory of evolution were opposed when the *Monthly* began publication in 1872. To it White contributed twenty-eight articles, Herbert Spencer ninety-one and Huxley forty-four. Those of White's articles concerned with the struggle of science for freedom were subsequently published in book form under the title "A History of the Warfare of Science with Theology," a work of fine scholarship and wide influence. White was the author of a number of books concerned with



ANDREW DIXON WHITE.

economics, history, education and social conditions. In 1905 he published the autobiography of a life of unusual usefulness and distinction.

*FREEDING THE FOREST RE-
SERVES FROM PREDATORY ANIMALS.*

SKILLED hunters in the employ of the government are waging persistent warfare against the predatory animals that prey on sheep and cattle in the western states. Their efforts are encouraging stockmen to increase live-stock production on the federal forest reserves as well as in the range country, and they are protecting the sources of supplies of meat, leather and wool now in the western grazing districts.

Hunters of the Biological Survey of the United States Department of Agriculture have killed 70,713 predatory animals during the last three years, which has resulted in a direct saving estimated at nearly \$5,500,000 a year to the stockmen of the Rocky Mountain section. The total number killed since the fall of 1915, when the work was started, includes 60,473 coyotes, 8,094 bobcats, 1,829 wolves, 201 mountain lions and 137 bears. The government experts estimate that the annual depredations among cattle and sheep effected by single predatory animals are as follows: wolf, \$1,000; stock-killing grizzly bear, \$500; mountain lion, \$500; bobcat, \$50; and coyote, \$50.

Stockmen in sections where the predatory animals are obnoxious are aided by the government in ridding the ranges. In some localities the stockmen's associations cooperate with the state and federal authorities in the extermination campaign, professional hunters being employed to detect and kill the animals that prey on sheep and cattle. Illustrative of the scope of this work, the

total income from pelts of predatory animals killed by government hunters last year amounted to approximately \$100,000. In addition many other animals whose skins could not be reclaimed were killed by poisoning. Ordinarily the United States Biological Survey has from 250 to 350 professional hunters permanently in its employ. The area wherein predatory animal control is practiced includes ten districts: Montana; Idaho; Washington and Oregon; Nevada and California; Utah; Wyoming and South Dakota; Colorado; Arizona; New Mexico; and Texas.

During the last twelve months 26,226 coyotes, 3,458 bobcats, 849 wolves, 85 mountain lions, and 41 stock-killing bears have been disposed of at an annual saving of approximately \$2,400,000 in domestic stock. Recently a government hunter shot two male wolves which had killed 150 sheep and 7 colts on two Wyoming ranches, while another trapper bagged a pair of old wolves which had a record of killing \$4,000 worth of live stock a year. A third trapper destroyed 85 coyotes and 2 bobcats in one month, using 6 horses and 200 traps over a trap line varying from 50 to 100 miles in length. A coyote was recently captured which had destroyed \$75 worth of sheep in one week. Two wolves, seven mountain lions, and a grizzly bear, the largest of its species ever killed in the Yellowstone Park section, were shot by another sharpshooter. These results are typical of the campaign destined to free the Rocky Mountain range country of predatory animals.

*THE BALTIMORE MEETING OF
THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
FOR THE ADVANCEMENT
OF SCIENCE.*

THE meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of